

December 4, 1953

Dr. E. A. Favret  
Phytotechnical Institute  
Castelar  
Argentine Republic

Dear Dr. Favret:

I have your letter of the 23rd of November referring to your interest in work with biochemical mutants of Escherichia coli. I will be happy to cooperate with you in any way that I can but your letter did not make it clear precisely what you desired.

I have not, myself, had any interest or experience in the matter of mutants of E. coli concerned with nitrate reduction nor am I acquainted with any other investigator who has studied this question in this organism. I trust you are familiar with the work of MacElroy on this matter which made use of certain mutants of Neurospora. I am therefore unable to supply any mutants of E. coli which would be of immediate or direct value to you.

If, however, it would be important to you to have various nutritional mutants of E. coli, strain k-12, as a foundation for your own work in developing nitrate defective mutants I will be very happy to send you the basic stocks. Please let me know your wishes in this regard.

I am not well enough acquainted with your colleagues in Argentina to be able perhaps to give you an adequate reference. It might be of some advantage to you, however, to consult with Dr. Jose Reissig who is now at the Fundacion Campomar at Buenos Aires in Leloir's Laboratory as he has had considerable experience with biochemical mutants of Neurospora.

I trust that you are also acquainted with the work of Pollock and his colleagues in London on the adaptive nitratase of certain coliform bacteria.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg  
Associate Professor of Genet

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